

PSC-ED-OUS (US)

Moderator: Emmanuel Caudillo
April 6, 2016
1:00 pm CT

Coordinator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. At this time, all participants will be in a listen only mode until the question and answer session of today's conference. At that time, please press star followed by the number 1 on your phone to ask a question. And record your name at the prompt.

This call is being recorded. If you object, you may disconnect at this time. and I would like to turn the call over to Ms. Jaqueline Cortez-Wang. Ma'am, you may begin.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Thank you. Welcome and thank you for joining us this afternoon for our first webinar on federal investments in Hispanic education. As many of you who have joined us in the past, we've had several webinars focused on different topics related to Hispanics and education.

This is the very first one focused on federal investments in Hispanic education. My name is Jaqueline Cortez-Wang and I am the Senior Advisor for the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.

And I'm joined by my colleagues as well as my representatives from a variety of federal agencies. Before we get started, there are two quick business matters. I would like to inform and remind you that this webinar is off the record and not intended for press purposes.

I would also like to mention that as the operator just said, this webinar including the Q&A, will be recorded.

The recording and transcript along with the slide presentation, will be posted on the Initiatives Web site after the call, to make the information available for anyone who was unable to join us for the live webinar.

The agenda will go as follows - I will describe today's webinar topic briefly and then introduce each of our speakers who will speak for up to ten minutes. And then we will have time for a five minute Q&A following each presentation.

When we open the floor for questions, the operator will provide guidance on how to get into the queue for questions. If we are unable to get to your questions during Q&A, we will provide our email address to insure we connect you accordingly, after the webinar.

For those of you that RSVP'd you should have received a copy of the slides as a PDF prior to this call. If you did not, you can email us now at WHIEEH@ED.gov.

Or you can visit our Web site, ED.gov/HispanicInitiative, where you can download all of the information including the PDF. And now onto our

discussion for today on federal investments in Hispanic education.

Approximately one in four K-12 public school students in the US, is Latino.

According to the US Census Bureau, the Hispanic population will more than double from approximately 54 million in 2012 to approximately 129 million in 2016. Thus the future of the nation is inextricably linked to the future of the Hispanic community.

In order to support and advance their educational achievement, Latino students must have access to and gain participation in quality education. With this goal in mind, in 2013 the initiative proudly created the Federal Interagency Working Group on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.

This working group is comprised of senior officials from over 25 federal agencies and the White House office. The working group's overarching goals are to help insure federal investments, programs and opportunities are effectively shared with the Hispanic community.

(Unintelligible) suggests improvements to federal policies, regulations and programs that apply to Hispanic students and communities and insure efforts and spending reflect the diversity of the nation's population and the growing number of Hispanic serving institutions, while strengthening the link between the federal and the nation's Hispanic communities.

This past September the initiative released the federal agencies investing in Hispanic education report that featured and highlighted programs supported by working group agencies and captured over 350 activities and investments that are helping advance education for all students and increase access to federal resources through the inaugural federal agency data collection.

Both of these can be found on our Web site again, at ED.gov/HispanicInitiative. Since then we have amplified the fantastic opportunities through our newsletter, Hang Out, social media and events around the country.

This webinar is yet another vehicle to insuring more people are aware of the many resources available at the federal level.

Today we will feature four federal agency presentations on key opportunities, including upcoming grants available to the nation's Hispanic education stakeholders and the HSI community.

To further broaden participation and increase the diversity of their applicant pool, we hope to continue amplifying opportunities such as the ones you will hear about today.

So without further ado, I will turn it over to our first presenter, Senior Public Affairs Specialist at the Corporation for National and Community Service, Rob Bisi. Rob?

Rob Bisi: Great. Thank you so much for the introduction. Good afternoon everybody. So the Corporation for National and Community Service - we are a federal agency and an independent agency. And we are the largest grant maker that supports service and volunteering.

We run program - the programs, AmeriCorps, Senior Corps and two funding sources, the Social Innovation Fund and the Volunteer Generation Fund. And we also work on the National - the President's National Call to Service Initiative, United We Serve.

Our - we work through nonprofit organizations, faith based groups, schools and municipal agencies across the country, through our funding streams. And our - our national footprint is represented by 345,000 Senior Corps and AmeriCorps members.

And they leverage 4.6 million volunteers across the country through the organizations that they work through. And there are about 60,000 service locations for these members.

In addition, our grantees leverage about \$850 million from their local communities on top of the money that we grant to them to do their work. and so our footprint is - is pretty large across the country. So today what I want to talk about are three things - grants, service opportunities and recognition.

Next slide please. To the grants opportunity. Great. So we have - currently we have two grant opportunities available. And you can see on the slide, the - the deadlines for them. And the first one is from our social innovation fund.

And it provides - this particular grant opportunity will provide up to \$39 million to eligible grant making institutions that are seeking to grow innovative, evidence based solutions to challenges facing low income communities nationwide, in our four focus areas, which are healthy futures, youth development, economic opportunity and environmental stewardship.

Each selected grant maker will be awarded \$1 million to \$10 million and will be required to match every federal dollar of the grant award. The majority of awarded federal funds, must be invested in sub grantee programs, who match their grants one to one as well.

The second grant opportunity that we have available is through our AmeriCorps program and it's specifically for Indian tribes. So the recipients would have to be federally recognized Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

And we - CNCS, our agency, may award an AmeriCorps planning grant or an AmeriCorps program grant to successful applicants. For our grant opportunities, we encourage you to visit the - the Web site that's listed on the - on the slide.

And you'll be able to - you can also there, sign up for email - emails to get information about future grant opportunities as well. And then also at this Web site, you can also get more specific information about both of these funding opportunities.

And there's a number of - of resources that you can refer to. In addition to the grant opportunities, next slide please, we also through our programs, run - we recruit individuals to serve for - for various nonprofits around the country.

Our first major program is AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps has three programs - AmeriCorps State and National; AmeriCorps Vista; and AmeriCorps NCCC.

AmeriCorps State and National is a funding stream where we fund nonprofit organizations through - one vehicle is through state service commissions, which are run out of the Governor's offices or a state - a state agency. Most of the time it's a state education agency.

But for most states it's the Governor's office. And those - that state funding goes out to - they re-grant out the money that we give them, to nonprofits in their states. Our AmeriCorps national funding is money that we give directly to national nonprofits.

Some of the ones that you may be most familiar with, are YouthBuild, Teach for America, Habitat for Humanity through the year; programs along those lines. And you can get a complete list of sort of all of those grantees on our Web site at NationalService.gov/AmeriCorps.

In addition, our other program, AmeriCorps Vista is a program, is a funding stream that is given to nonprofits as well. And these grantees are required to work - are to bring on Vistas to - who work on issues related to poverty.

And Vista, as you - many of you may know, is a program that's been around since the Johnson Administration and was started during the War on Poverty. And so that's why this program has a particular focus on poverty.

And the primary job of Vista members is to work in a nonprofit organization to help that organization build its capacity - organizational capacity. And in a - in addition, they also have a role to leverage additional volunteers.

In both the AmeriCorps State and National funding and the AmeriCorps Vista funding recruits, people that are 18 years and older. The last program in our AmeriCorps family is the AmeriCorps NCCC program. And that is a program that's open only to 18-24 year olds.

And that is a program that my agency runs directly. And it's a - it's a residential program for 18-24 year olds. They live on a campus or one of our five campuses across the country.

And once they are at that campus, they are then deployed out to other - they are deployed out to do various jobs that are needed in their - in their region.

So for instance, we have one in Baltimore and those young people are deployed out throughout the - the East Coast to work on things such as disaster relief, volunteer management. They clear trails and national parks or state parks. Or they do specific tasks for nonprofits.

So it's a - it's a great opportunity. So that - those are - those are three volunteer type opportunities.

And the great thing about AmeriCorps members is that they spend about ten months in full time service and receive a living stipend which is a small - a small amount of money, to barely cover their living expenses.

At the end of their term of service, they also receive a - an education award that is equivalent to the Pell Grant which right now is about \$5500, maybe a little bit more. And that is money that could be - that these people can use for - for their education, to help pay for tuition, books or other items.

If you're an older person you can give that education award to let's say your grandchildren or whatever, if - if there are some alternative ways that you could, you know, pay that forward. In addition to AmeriCorps, we also have our Senior Corps program.

And all three of the sub programs of Senior Corps are for people that are 55 years old or older. The RSVP program is a program that - where older people work in nonprofits, in their own communities, doing various kinds of - of volunteer work related to whatever that particular nonprofit works on.

So it could range from literacy to, you know, cleaning up a river to, you know, anything that you could think of that a nonprofit would work on. The second program is our Foster a Grandparent program.

And the Foster a Grandparent Program is a program where folks go, volunteers go into a school and they work with children with whatever, you know, helping - helping the teacher with whatever needs to happen that day in the classroom, you know, whether it's reading to students, being a mentor to students, you know, walking students from one place to another.

Any kind of - any kind of activities that are - involve school and what a teacher needs to have done.

Our Senior Companion Program, the third and final program of Senior Corps, is the program where people 55 and older, help people that are homebound and need a little extra help in their - in their homes, whether it could be cleaning; driving them to the grocery store; or other kinds of things that folks may need some help with.

So these are different opportunities that people that you may work with or may know or you yourself may want to potentially get involved with. Next slide please.

So in addition to those - to those opportunities, we also have a couple of recognition programs that some of you may be interested in your organization or your higher ed institution or your faith based group or wherever you're doing work.

The first one is the President's Volunteer Service Award. And that's a recognition that we work on with the President. And it's for individuals to be recognized for their volunteer - voluntary service. And as you can see, I'm not going to read through all of the - the requirements here.

And these are actually just some of the requirements, but it gives you a sense of what the different award levels are for different ages and for instance, there's like a lifetime achievement award and that is for people that have done more than 4000 hours of volunteer service in the course of their lifetime.

And the recipient of that recognition receive a pin and a - and a certificate. And you can get more information at the Web site that's listed at the bottom of this - of this section. The other recognition program that is - this is specifically for higher ed institutions, not individuals.

And this is a program that recognizes higher education institutions for the community service work that they do. And right now the four categories that we gather applications in our general community service, interfaith community service, economic opportunity and education.

And you can get more information about the honor roll if your institution would like to apply, at NationalService.gov/HonorRoll. And sorry, I did not put that on this slide.

But those are - it's a - it's a great recognition and helps elevate the, you know, your - your community service work in - in your community. And so with that, that's all of the information that I have.

Although the next slide provides you with some of the dates and URLs for the - for the grant opportunities for those of you that are interested in those - those opportunities.

And - and then the next slide, if you would like to keep in touch with, I think it's one back or maybe they're showing up - maybe they're showing up like if

you keep hitting enter or something. Anyway, there's - there's a slide in there that has how to get in touch with us through Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr.

And then an email address where you can send emails directly to us. And we'll - we can get back to you with any specific questions that any of you may have. But we're more than happy - I - more than happy to take questions now for anyone that may have them.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Great. Thank you Rob. Now let's open the floor for questions. Operator can you please tell callers how to get into the queue to ask a question?

Coordinator: Thank you. We will now begin the question and answer session. To ask a question, press star followed by the number 1 on your phone. Unmute your phone and record your name clearly when prompted. Your name is required to introduce your question.

To cancel your request, press star followed by the number 2. One moment for the first question.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Thank you Operator. We actually have received one question online regarding Senior Corps. Do - do they get a - a stipend, those that are part of the Senior Corps?

Rob Bisi: Generally, no. They don't get a stipend. However, the - I think it's the Senior Companion Program - they do get a little bit of a - a stipend but it's only enough to basically like cover like mileage and - and - and gas. But that's the - the only program.

And it's - and the only people that qualify are people that are low income.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Got it. Okay. Thank you. Operator, are there any questions?

Coordinator: No questions at this time ma'am.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Okay. Rob, we actually have one more question.

Rob Bisi: Okay.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: So the - for - as part of the Senior Corps, do they - do they have to speak English as their first language or can they speak other languages?

Rob Bisi: I think it depends on the - on the organization that they would be working with.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Okay.

Rob Bisi: I think some - some organizations do have - are - are bilingual or - or, you know, or do speak Spanish and that their clientele are - are Spanish speakers. And so, you know, I would encourage you to - to look for those opportunities in your community.

And you can find those opportunities for the most part if you - if you go to our - our Web site, our - the Senior Corps section of NationalService.gov. And you'll find - go to the Senior Corps section, and there's a place where you can find volunteer opportunities in your own community.

I think you can put in your zip code and you - you'll be able to find those opportunities. You could also though, Google RSVP and, you know, in your community.

So it'd be like RSVP Washington, DC and you would find, you know, organizations that have RSVP programs or - or the Foster a Grandparent Program or the Senior Companion Program.

Because there are - there are three different funding cycles, you know, I said cycles but that's not the right word, but three different funding streams. And so the organizations operate in the - those three programs operate in slightly different ways.

And they promote their volunteer opportunities in slightly different ways.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Okay. Wonderful. It sounds like you just answered our next question, which is how do we request Senior Corps - Senior Corps volunteers? So I think you answered that, unless you want to add anything else to that.

Rob Bisi: Well if you're looking for Senior Corps volunteers, that's a different - that's a different way. What you would do is you would need to go to our Web site and there's - and we'll talk about how we - how we manage our funding for that. And...

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Okay.

Rob Bisi: And the Web site would talk about how - how you would get volunteers. Let's say if you wanted some RSVP volunteers, which is our general - the sort of general volunteering, you would probably have to work with the local RSVP funded organization in your community.

And they might be able to get you some RSVP volunteers.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Great. Thank you. Thank you so much Rob. Now we'll get ready to hear from our second presenter. For those of you that were unable to ask a question, we'll open up the lines at the end.

But we also will provide you with an email address and you also have Engagement@CNS.gov for any additional questions. So if you are still in the queue, please press star 2 to remove yourself from it.

If you still have a question again, that Rob wasn't able to answer, his email is listed on the slide deck. And now I will turn the floor over to Sylvia James, Division Director of the Division of Human Resource Development at the National Science Foundation. Sylvia?

Dr. Sylvia James: Good afternoon and thank you. Welcome and I will be sharing with you some information about funding opportunities at the National Science Foundation, most of which are in the (Directory) for Education and Human Resources. Next slide please.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with NSF, I wanted to share first the mission of the agency, which is to promote the progress of science and advance the national health prosperity and welfare and to secure the national defense.

NSF is the largest funder of - of science and education that is non-medical science among the federal agencies. And we fund science and education research, as I mentioned, in all areas, except for medicine, which is the purview of the National Institute of Health.

Most of you may be familiar with NSF because of funding in the what people call sometimes call (bench) science. And various disciplinary areas. But it also

has a - an education directorate which funds science education, implementation and research. So I wanted to share that mission.

I won't read all of it for you, but just think in terms of STEM education, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Research related to learning, to engage and grow a diverse STEM science literate citizenry. And that is ready to advance the frontiers of science and innovate for society.

We have divisions focused on graduate education, undergraduate education, research on learning. And the division I'm in is Human Resource Development, which is focused on the development of a diverse STEM workforce. Next slide please. Next slide please. Okay, thank you.

The main program that I wanted to tell you about is a brand new one that was just launched in February, called NSF Includes, which stands for inclusion across the nation of learners of underrepresented discoverers in science and engineering in science.

We know that's a mouthful, but it's a wonderful program that is designed to really enhance US leadership in science engineering, discovery and innovation to go beyond the existing programs while building on our extensive portfolio of programs that are focused on, or emphasize, broadening participation in the STEM workforce.

So NSF Includes, will support models, networks, partnership and research focused on strengthening the US science and engineering workforce and insuring that all groups underrepresented in STEM, that's African Americans, women, Hispanics, Native Americans, Native Alaskans, Native Hawaiians, people with disabilities and people that are in low socioeconomic status as well.

All of these groups that are underrepresented in STEM, would be able to be engaged in STEM learning opportunities so that they'll be represented in the workforce and at levels that are comparable to their representation in the US workforce.

So eligible institutions, to see the full list, I will refer you to the NSF grant proposal guide. But generally, it's US based institutions, not limited to just colleges and universities, but nonprofits, community based organizations such as museums and science centers and others, are eligible.

If you're not sure, see the grant proposal guide or contact - or go on - you can go on the NSF Web site. I'll give you the link later. This is a quick turnaround for those of you who are just hearing about Includes, because the deadline for preliminary proposals is April 15th, which is next week.

And these are required. These are mandatory in order to be eligible to be invited to submit a full proposal. The good news is that the preliminary proposals are only five pages, no budget is required.

And all of the information and details on what has to be included, is in the program solicitation which you'll see the link for a little bit later.

So if you submit a preliminary proposal and it is considered competitive and meets all the criteria, then you would be invited to submit a full proposal and be eligible to apply for funding in the amount of \$300,000 for the first phase which are called design and development launch pilots.

The reason why we're getting such a great response to the launch pilots is because those who are awarded launch pilot grants are then eligible to apply

in 2017 for NSF Includes Alliances, which will be five years and \$12-1/2 million.

So do - if this sounds like something that you're interested in, do look at the program solicitation. Next slide please. There's also another opportunity for those of you who want to start with something a little smaller.

A Dear Colleague letter 15-078 which is focused on stimulating research on strategies to - in undergraduate STEM education, particularly at two year Hispanic serving colleges. The goal of this Dear Colleague letter is listed there.

We really want to support evidence based practices that are effective for students at HSIs related to recruitment, retention, research (unintelligible), transfer - transfers to two year - from two year to four year institutions, as well as articulation agreements.

We additionally will support exploratory research that may lead to new models of best practices.

And that is an option if you apply for an (ECGER) grant which stands for Early Concept Grants for Exploratory Research, as well as conference grants, which are what you can use for some of the other activities. The deadline for this - you have a little bit more lead time as May 31, 2016.

If you pull up the Dear Colleague letter, it has all the information that you need on who to contact. Next slide please. Additional funding opportunities within the directorate for education and human resources, are listed here.

For those of you who are interested in fundamental research in all areas of STEM - learning; learning environments; workforce development and broadening participation, there's the EHR core research program.

I also wanted to share with you that we have the nomination period open for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Math and Science. Teaching - there's a typo on the slide. Sorry about that.

Teaching - paint - and this is the highest recognition that a teacher can get for outstanding teaching in the United States. The nomination period and anyone can submit a nomination with the teacher's contact information.

That teacher then receives an email and they can go in and complete the application process themselves.

And then a couple of other programs, very quickly, the innovative technology experiences for students and teachers program which has a later deadline, focusing on preparing students for the future of STEM workforce.

And preparing teachers so that they can teach students effectively and prepare them for that work - future workforce. And that has a deadline in August. And then for out of school time learning - museums, science centers, community based organizations.

Do look into the advancing and formal STEM learning program, which has a deadline in November. Next slide please. The important dates are summarized here. So for Includes, April 15th. For the preliminary proposals which are mandatory.

And then if you're invited, you can submit a full proposal in June. There are - the different dates you saw for the EHR core research programs, etc. and then to a Presidential Award, that Web site, [www dot \(PAINTS\) dot org](http://www.dot(PAINTS).dot.org) if you know a deserving teacher. The deadline is May 1st. Next slide.

And this is the final slide with my contact information and NSF handles for Facebook and Twitter. And of course the Web site. And I think I'm done. I'm happy to answer any questions that you might have. Or if you think of something later then I may be reached at SJames@NSF.gov.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Thank you so much Sylvia. You had a lot of great information. Now it's time to open the floor for questions again. Operator, can you please remind callers how to get into the queue to ask a question?

Coordinator: Sure. Thank you. We will now begin the question and answer session. To ask a question, press star followed by the number 1 on your phone. Unmute your phone and record your name clearly when prompted. Your name is required to introduce your question.

To cancel your question, press star followed by the number 2. One moment for the first question.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Thank you. And while we wait, we actually have received one question. The question is, does NSF have any grants that are specifically targeted for HSIs?

Dr. Sylvia James: The - the Dear Colleague letter which I referred to, 15-078, is an activity that targets HSIs.

There are a number of grants within the Division of Human Resource Development, which are - welcome submissions from HSIs, including these are larger, more complex programs that I didn't have time to talk about, the (unintelligible) alliances for minority participation, especially invites submissions from HSIs, including in the Bridge to the Baccalaureate.

And the CREST Program, Centers for Research Excellence in Science and Technology, I believe is our program that has the largest number of HSI awardees. And that's for \$5 million over - \$5 million over five years, for research centers.

But these programs are open to all types of minority serving institutions. But there is a - they - they do welcome submissions from HSIs.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Okay. Thank you so much. Operator, do we have any questions?

Coordinator: No question - no questions at the time - at this time ma'am. I'm sorry.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Okay. No, that's okay. So I have one more question. Are there any plans to allocate funds directly? My apologies. That was for the last presenter. So this one is for the - for the Includes opportunity. What are the eligible institutions? May nonprofits apply or is this only for HSIs?

Dr. Sylvia James: Any institution is eligible to apply for NSF funding, can submit an application to Includes. And that does include nonprofit organizations.

But when you look at the solicitation which is 16-544, you'll see that Includes is a - an initiative that focuses on collaborations to address challenges, national level challenges and broadening participation. So we anticipate that there'll be collaborations of a range of types of organizations.

Colleges, universities, state and local governments, K-12 school systems and administrations, nonprofit organizations, community organizations, etc. So there's a - a range of organizations that are eligible - the same - or groups of organizations that are eligible for funding.

We also anticipate that we'll see them as part of the groups that are collaborating to address these national level (driving) participation challenges.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Perfect. Thank you so much Sylvia. And any others, again if you have questions, we're going to go ahead and move on - but if you have any questions you have Sylvia's contact information. Thank you for providing that Sylvia.

Our next presenter is from the US Department of Education. (Beatrice Seja) is a Hispanic-Serving Institutions Division Director. (Beatrice)?

(Beatrice Seja): Good afternoon. Before I begin the slides, I just want to let you know that as part of the Hispanic-Serving Institutions Division, we do work in partnership with the National Science Foundation.

So many of the programs that - that Dr. James announced here were some of the programs that you might have heard of - heard of when we did our joint webinar. So again, I encourage you to think about applying for NSF funding, for those of you that were part of that webinar earlier this year.

Now - next slide please. The Hispanic-Serving - the Hispanic-Serving Institutions Programs Division is responsible for three programs which identify institutions that have met the definition of an HSI.

In order to be considered an HSI, an institution must be one, an eligible institution and two, it must have an enrollment, an undergraduate, full time enrollment of 25% or higher.

With respect to eligible institutions, an institution must meet the threshold for core expenditures as well as needy students. We vet the first part of the definition for all programs under Title V and Title III between December - December and January.

This year we adopted a new way of identifying the eligible institutions by promoting our eligibility matrix where we took data from the (IPEG) and we filtered everybody that met the definition for eligible institutions, using our (IPEG) data.

We then required applicants to submit an application to meet the definition for eligible institution, if they did not meet the eligibility matrix.

If after submitting the application they still did not meet the eligible institution definition, there were an option - there were seven options for waiver submissions that an applicant could present, at which point we would then identify them as either meeting the definition of eligible institution or not.

Currently we have identified over 400 institutions as meeting the HSI definition. Next slide. One of the programs that we fund under this division is the developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program. This is known as Title V Part A.

Again, this is a program where an institution must meet the definition of an HSI in order to be eligible to apply. In 2016 we received an appropriation of

\$107 million, approximately \$107 million. Currently we have 176 grantees that are funded under this program.

In 2015 was the last competition that we had where we awarded 96 new awards. This year, for 2016, given the available funding, we will award an additional 31 applications from those applicants that submitted a high quality application in 2015.

At this point, we are uncertain when our next competition will be, given the amount that we need in order to provide the non-competing continuations to the grantees that have an out year for any one of these cohorts that we funded since 2012. Next slide.

We also fund the promoting baccalaureate opportunities for Hispanic Americans for - for 2016 we have an appropriation of approximately \$9 million. Unfortunately, the \$9 million is only enough to fund the noncompeting continuation award for our 19 grantees that we funded in 2014.

Next slide please. The Hispanic-Serving Institutions are Science Technology Engineering or Mathematics and articulation program which is the HSI STEM and articulation Title III Part F. For this competition - for this program, we will actually host a competition this year.

The notice inviting applications was published March 4, 2016. This particular program has the purpose that - to increase the number of Hispanic students in the STEM fields as well as to improve articulation and transfer models.

This year we added an additional absolute priority for this competition, asking applicants to think through direct services for students, as a way to increase the - the number of Hispanic students that graduate with STEM degrees, as

well as support services, for those students that transfer between two year and four year institutions. Next slide.

So as previously mentioned, the HSI STEM and articulation program is the only one that we will be competing this year. The application was available March 4, 2016. The applications are due May 31, 2016. We did have a correction to the notice inviting applications.

As such, this actually added additional days to our deadline. So the new deadline is May 31, 2016. We will only be funding individual development grants, which means that an institution may only be awarded one grant. The estimated available funds for this competition, is approximately \$91.7 million.

We hope to make approximately 109 awards. The range of awards is \$770,000 to approximately \$1.2 million annual budget, with \$1.2 million being the max award that we would provide in one year. So the range of estimated new awards is between \$75 million to \$109 million. Next slide.

These are just again, a list of the programs that are administered by the HSI Division and the Office of Full Secondary Education. And as mentioned, we currently have one program that's available for competition.

If you have any questions pertaining to any one of our programs, are interested in finding out more about the funding opportunities for the HSI STEM and articulation program, our next slide provides contact information for the program officers that are part of the HSI Division. Thank you.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Thank you (Beatrice). If you have any questions, please join the queue now. And we actually have a couple of questions from - from the

community, about the presentation. The first one is how can someone apply to be an HSI?

(Beatrice Seja): Again, in order to be identified as an HSI definition, they must - an institution - a two year college or a four year college must first meet the eligible institution definition. This is the process that we began in December. So this year that process will begin December 2016 and end in January of 2017.

That process is a vetting process to identify an institution as having met the threshold for core expenditures, needy students. And so once an institution is able to get designated as an eligible institution, we then look at the 25% enrollment or higher.

But again, this is - there are a number of institutions that may have the 25% of Hispanic enrollment or higher. But unfortunately, we weren't able to include them in our list this year because they did not meet the first part of the definition which was a - which was eligible institutions.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Great. Thank you. Operator, do we have any questions in the queue?

Coordinator: No questions at this time ma'am.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Okay, thank you. so we're going to go ahead and move onto our final featured agency for today, the US Department of Veterans Affairs, represented by Diversity Specialist, (Aurelia Watters). (Aurelia)?

(Aurelia Watters): Hi. Thank you. Thanks to everybody on the call today. My name is (Aurelia Watters). I work for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Department of

Veterans Affairs. I'm going to first start off by giving you a - just a little bit of overview about VA.

And then we can talk about - a little bit about the outreach programs that VA offers.

So the Department of Veterans Affairs is - its mission is to serve America's veterans and their families with dignity and compassion and to be their principal advocate in insuring that they receive medical care, benefits, social support and lasting memorials, which promote the health, welfare and dignity of all veterans in recognition of their service to our nation.

VA is the second largest federal department with over 320,000 employees. Some of the jobs that VA recruits for include HR Specialist, Medical Officer, Registered Nurse, Attorney, Veterans Claim Examiner, Contracting, IT Specialist, Pharmacist, Physical Therapist, Medical Technology, Psychology, Diagnostic Radiologic Technologist, Occupational Therapist, Certified Registered Nurse and Cemetery Caretaking.

Of course there's - there's additional occupations that I'm not going to list at this time. VA has offices nationwide. For example, we have 152 medical hospitals, 798 community based outpatient clinics, several vet centers nationwide, regional offices and cemeteries.

We also have offices headquartered in Washington, DC. And the three major line organizations are the Veterans Health Administration, the Veterans Benefits Administration and the National Cemetery Administration, along with headquarter offices established here in DC.

We can go to the next slide. The next slide - the Veterans Education and Employee Benefits. This first slide shows a snapshot regarding VA's educational benefits. And we can go onto the next one, the student outreach and retention.

VA has established a new college, student outreach and retention program which is known as the SOR initiative. And this initiative focuses on the provision of information regarding federal employment, VA careers, VA internships and mentoring.

This program is established as a pipeline for students, graduates to careers in VA and provides real time job, internship and career information to SOR participants. Next slide.

VA's national diversity internship program provides opportunities to diverse undergraduate and graduate students who are currently enrolled full time or part time, in a degree seeking program at an accredited post-secondary institution.

National Diversity Internship Program, NDIP - sessions are offered during the spring, summer and/or fall for students from various institutions, to include minority serving institutions, historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Asian-American colleges, Pacific Islander-serving institutions and tribal colleges and universities.

VA offices and administrations provide students an opportunity to intern in a variety of career fields including but not limited to human resources communications, business financing - business finance contracting, veterans claims examiner, information technology and cemetery administration.

NDIP recruits interns through organizations that conduct targeted outreach to diverse student populations. And these are - are vendors listed on - on this slide. For more information, you may do a Google search to access their Web page.

If you want to apply to an internship you'd go directly through the vendor. And you may - you may do a Google search or you may access their page through VA's Office of Diversity and Inclusion internship Web page at www.Diversity.VA.gov/Programs/Internship. Next slide.

So we - we can go to the following slide. We've already covered the NDA fee material. Next slide is My Career at VA. My Career at VA is the department's premier career development resource tool which is - which was established by VA's learning university.

It's an interactive tool based on a four phase process where those that register either internal VA employees as well as external, the - the Web site is external facing, the public - anyone may register to - to use this tool. It's a very innovative tool.

It allows you to explore jobs, career changes and understand basic requirements regarding certifications, licenses required to achieve the intended goal. So it's a very, very, very useful tool. Next slide please.

Our final program that I want to share information on is our workforce recruitment program, which is a program that we use to hire students and recent graduates with disabilities. The VA has used this program for several years.

This slide shows some of the highlights, some of the accomplishments for VA. Know that the workforce recruitment program is managed by the Department of Defense and - and the Department of - of Labor. The Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment office.

The - for more information, I would direct you to go directly to www.WRP.gov to learn more about some important deadlines. And I think that pretty much covers everything as far as the student outreach activities. I mean - sorry, programs that I wanted to discuss today. Thank you.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Thank you so much (Aurelia). If you have any questions, please join us in the queue. In the meantime, we do have a couple of questions for you actually. The first one is does the VA have a student loan repayment program?

(Aurelia Watters): Thank you for that question. The VA does have a couple of programs. We do have a student loan repayment program. And under this program, employees in certain occupations, may be eligible to receive up to \$10,000 per year, with a lifetime maximum of \$60,000, to help repay student loans.

In addition to that, some offices do offer tuition reimbursement to reduce their - their debt. And to - to find out more, you - anyone can contact me directly and I'll put them in touch with the appropriate person.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Perfect. Thank you.

(Aurelia Watters): Thank you.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Operator, do we have any other questions?

Coordinator: No questions at this time, ma'am.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Okay. Thank you. We have one more. (Aurelia), does the VA offer recruitment initiatives?

(Aurelia Watters): Yes. The VA does offer - it all - it depends. They do offer recruitment incentives to new hires. These special recruitment incentives varies. Again, I can provide more information if you contact me directly at (Aurelia) dot (Watters) at VA dot gov.

I'll be more than happy to put you in touch with the appropriate person.

Jaqueline Cortez-Wang: Great. Thank you so much. I appreciate it. That's all the time that we have for today's webinar. Please note that if you still have a question for any of our presenters or wanted to follow up, they have shared their contact information in the slide deck.

Or you can send your inquiry to them through us, at WHIEEH@ED.gov. A big thank you to our presenters. And most of all, thank you for participating. We do want to ask those that are participating, this is - this is one of many ways that we're trying to get this information out to you.

We sit at the initiative and we have so many opportunities that come through our emails, through our conversations, through our relationships. And what we're really trying to do is get this information out to the community. The only way that we can do that is by - by working with you.

So we do ask that this information - anything that's appropriate for your - for your stakeholders, for the groups that you work with, please add it to your

newsletters, to your email addresses, to your email - emails that you send out to your stakeholders.

Any way that you can get the information out will help us. What we're also asking for is any advice, any guidance that you can give us in terms of how we can change the format of these webinars, in terms of how we can make sure to get this information out to your community.

So please feel free to email us with any of that information and we'll definitely look forward to your advice. Again, our email address is WHIEEH@ED.gov.

We hope you will join us for our next webinar that we are cohosting with the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, on April 21st. Additionally, our next Google Hang Out which will focus on Latino teacher recruitment and will take place the day before, on April 20th.

More details on these events will be forthcoming, on our Web site, in addition to the recording, transcript and slide deck of this webinar, which will be posted later this week.

If you have not signed up for our email distribution list to receive these updates, please do so through our Web site at ED.gov/HispanicInitiative. Again, ED.gov/HispanicInitiative. That's all that we have. Thank you so much. Have a great day.

Coordinator: And that concludes today's conference. Thank you for your participation. You may now disconnect.

END